

REMARKS

Claims 1-14 are pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 4-14 were amended in this response. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments.

The Abstract was objected to for informalities. In light of the amendments to the specification submitted above, Applicants believe the objectionable matter has been addressed. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly requested.

Claims 5-11 were objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c) for having improper multiple dependent claims. In light of the amendments to the claims submitted above, Applicants believe the objectionable matter has been addressed. Withdrawal of the objection is earnestly requested.

Claims 1-4 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In light of the amendments to the claims submitted above, Applicants believe the objectionable matter has been addressed. Withdrawal of the rejection is earnestly requested.

Claims 1-2 and 12-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Brumm et al. (US Pub 2002/0054590). Claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brumm et al. (US Pub 2002/0054590) in view of Dunn et al. (US Patent 6,324,280). Claims 5-11 were not examined on the merits. Applicants traverse the rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Specifically, the cited art, alone or in combination, does not disclose “converting *user data signaling messages into signaling packets* that are used between the line-switching network containing control information and the packet-switching communications network containing control information; setting up a signaling connection for transmitting signaling packets, which form connection-independent control information which relates to at least one service feature in the line-switching communications network, in the packet-switching network in order to use the at least one service feature of the line-switching communications network in the packet-switching communications network by means of the control information, *independently of the connection*” as recited in claim 1. and similarly recited in claim 12 (“connection-independent”).

Brumm teaches a telecommunications system having a packet switching communications network where a subscriber is connected to the packet-switching communications network and a network element of a circuit-switching communications network is connected to the packet-

switching network using an interface unit. The interface unit ("packet control unit 14") performs a protocol conversion of signaling information of the circuit-switching communications network into signaling information of the packet-switching communications network in order to operate a telecommunications system having a packet-switching communications network ([0028 - 0029]). The protocol-conversion converts the H.225-signaling packet of the packet-switching network into DSS1-signaling information of the circuit-switching network. As such, the conversion is dependent on the signaling connection.

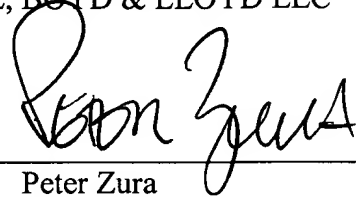
In contrast, the present claims recite that the signaling information of the circuit switching network is contained as user data in the signaling packets of packet-switching network. As such, there is no protocol conversion of the signaling packet data (H.225 – DSS1). The DSS1-signaling information is unchanged and transported unchanged by the H.225-signaling packet in the packet-switching network. When setting up a signaling connection in the packet-switching network, the signaling packet for the call set-up (SETUP message) in the packet-switching network contains tunneled signaling information of the circuit-switching network. This signaling packet is sent to the control unit which extracts the signaling information (see claims 12-14) of the circuit-switching network from the signaling packet of the packet-switching network and sends this signaling information to a switching center in the circuit-switching network. Support for these features may be found in the specification, page 7, line 15 - page 8, line 7. Accordingly, Applicants submit the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is improper and should be withdrawn. Furthermore, as claims 3 and 4 depend directly/indirectly from claim 1, they are allowable for the same reasons argued above. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is also improper and should be withdrawn.

In light of the above remarks, Applicant respectfully submit that claims 1-14 are allowable. Applicants respectfully submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Commissioner is authorized to charge and credit Deposit Account No. 02-1818 for any additional fees associated with the submission of this Response. Please reference docket number 112740-268.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Zura", written over a horizontal line.

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